

March 2020

**Coronavirus**

**GMB advice for School Cleaners, Site Managers and other school support staff**

|  |
| --- |
| GMB are concerned that GMB members are being put at risk if they are asked to conduct a ‘deep clean’ in addition to or instead of their routine cleaning duties as a result of an incidence of COVID-19 (also known as Coronavirus) in their school. Worse still is where additional pressure is put on staff to complete this work at speed to get the establishment open quickly again. Not only is this a risk to staff but of course to pupils and visitors to the school.  If you are asked to do this work please contact your GMB branch or region who will intervene and provide the necessary support to stop our members being put at potential risk.  **Our advice to GMB branches where members are put in a similar situation is to contact the school and ensure they carry out the following:**   * In advance of a deep clean, conduct a full risk assessment and COSHH assessment (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) * Contact their Local Health Protection Team  for advice and support: [**www.gov.uk/health-protection-team**](https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team) * Ensure that only fully trained staff are involved, if necessary, a specialist cleaning team may be necessary. * Ensure that the correct PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) is available. * Keep staff informed and advised of any developments.   **Full details about the Coronavirus for GMB members is available on the following link, which provides an update for GMB members on controlling the risk of the Coronavirus, and** full information on your Employers’ duty of care to reduce the risks from exposure to biological hazards to as low as is reasonably practicable.  <https://www.gmb.org.uk/coronavirus-what-members-need-know>  The Department for Education has issued the following guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>  The DfE has also established a helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:  Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk) / Phone: 0800 046 8687 Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)  In addition, the trade unions have negotiated with the employers and agreed the following:  *“An employee who is prevented from attending work because of contact with infectious disease shall be entitled to receive normal pay. The period of absence on this account shall not be reckoned against the employee’s entitlements under this scheme”*  In the event that an employee is required to self-isolate or is placed in quarantine, the provision above should be applied.  **If you work for an academy or a private contractor and are not sure if this applies to you, contact your local GMB branch.**  If you are affected and need further guidance and support please contact GMB at [publicservices@gmb.org.uk](mailto:publicservices@gmb.org.uk) |